Quarantine Bill to prevent entry of pests

1047. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new Quarantine Bill to prevent entry of pests which are infected by diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to inadequate testing and detection facilities, several pests infected with various diseases have been imported in the past few years, which has caused considerable damage to agricultural crops; and

(d) if so, the extent to which introduction of Quarantine Bill would check such entry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There was a proposal to establish a Plant Quarantine Authority through a separate Plant Quarantine Bill. However, the proposal has not been agreed to by the Ministry of Finance.

(c) No pest has been introduced because of inadequate testing and detection facilities;

(d) Question does not arise.

Fall in chilli prices in A.P.

1048. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chilli farmers of Andhra Pradesh are distressed following a sudden steep fall in the price of its Byadigi variety; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to help the farmers who took heavy loans and are unable to sell surplus yields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. As per information furnished by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the chilli farmers

are not distressed because the prevailing market prices of chilli are remunerative to the farmers.

(b) Does not arise.

Information regarding high quality seeds

† 1049. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh steps have been taken for provising information regarding high quality seeds to the poor farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps, providing information about and to provide high quality seeds, to farmers of inaccessible areas throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Information on seeds is disseminated to farmers by agricultural extension personnel, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, etc. through leaflets, pamphlets, radio and television programmes, articles in newspapers and periodicals, distribution of seeds minikits, field demonstrations, awareness campaigns, Krishak Goshthis, Rythu Bazars, Kisan Melas and Agriculture Exhibitions, etc.

(c) and (d) Quality seeds are made available in remote areas through sales outlets of Agriculture Extension Centres, Cooperatives, Seed Corporations and private seed dealers.

Availability of mixed breed seeds

† 1050. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for easy availability of sophisticated mixed breed seeds, produced indigenously and abroad, for the farmers of all the States of the country;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.